



United States Department
of Agriculture

National Agricultural
Statistics Service

Washington Agricultural Statistics Service
P.O. Box 609, Olympia, WA 98507
(360) 902-1940 Fax (360) 902-2091

Washington Crop Weather

Released: November 21, 2005
Week Ending: November 20, 2005
CWP WA-CW4705

Frosty and Foggy Mornings Christmas Trees in High Demand

Field Crops

Cool mornings with frost or fog, followed by warmer afternoons with no rain to little rain were the typical weather of the week. Christmas trees were in high demand as producers harvested under ideal weather conditions. Choose and Cut growers were preparing to open their farms the day after Thanksgiving. Thurston County reported that tree quality this year is the best seen in years.

Livestock

Range and pasture conditions were 3% very poor, 6% poor, 40% fair, 50% good, and 1% excellent. With dry weather, livestock were being rotated on pastures; however, supplemental hay was being fed as well as grains. Ferry and Okanogan Counties' Livestock producers started to bring cattle in for the winter.

Fruits and Vegetables

Raspberry growers continued to trim and tie canes. Commercial dahlia growers continued digging and dividing tubers.

Days Suitable for Fieldwork

Week	Days
This Week	4.5
Last Week	3.5

Moisture and Supply

Item	Percent			
	VS	SH	AD	S
Topsoil	5	14	65	16
Topsoil 5 Yr Avg	7	30	58	5
Subsoil	15	32	45	8
Subsoil 5 Yr Avg	11	44	45	0
Irrigation Water	3	11	85	1
Hay & Roughage	2	13	79	6

VS=Very Short SH=Short AD=Adequate S=Surplus

Crop Progress

Crop/Activity	Percent Completed			
	This Week	Last Week	2004	5 Yr. Avg.
Winter Wheat Planted	99	99	100	100
Winter Wheat Emerged	94	93	97	98
Potatoes Harvested	99	98	100	100

Crop Condition*

Crop	% Acreage				
	VP	P	F	G	EX
Winter Wheat Dryland	2	2	40	42	14
Winter Wheat Irrigated	0	0	12	45	43

VP=Very Poor P=Poor F=Fair G=Good EX=Excellent

* Crop conditions are a measurement of the growing conditions and are not indicative of the quality of the crop produced.

COUNTY COMMENTS

Western

Grays Harbor: Christmas tree harvest was in full swing as growers rush to fill wholesale orders. Choose and Cut growers were preparing to open their farms the day after Thanksgiving. The surplus of Christmas trees in Oregon does not appear to have impacted local growers as wholesale prices were about the same as last year and demand for Noble fir remains strong. Although the weather turned colder, most agricultural producers made the most of an entire week with no rain to complete outside chores. Commercial dahlia growers continued digging and dividing tubers.

Grays Harbor/Lewis/Pacific: High pressure filled in, ending two weeks of continual rain. Most farmers were wrapping up the season, except for Christmas tree growers who were in the middle of harvest.

Mason: Little to no rainfall meant good conditions for field work. Christmas Tree and evergreen growers were in full harvest mode. With dry weather, livestock were still being rotated on pasture. Market farmers were harvesting their final crops for storage and sale.

Mason (2nd Report): No precipitation came with the calm and cool weather, but there was some sun. Marine air influenced the weather pattern. Foggy mornings and clear afternoons, with temperatures in the mid 40's, not much range from the highs to the lows. No hard frost yet although a short frost occurred last Monday. Grass was still growing. Producers were feeding livestock on upland pastures and do not plan on bringing them down into confinement until absolutely necessary. This has been a great opportunity to get some organic matter on hilly areas and the fields will be harrowed once the cows are moved down.

Pierce/South King: Crop conditions for the South Puget Sound area remained normal for this time of year. No unusual situations to report. No reports of crop damage due to a weather event.

Snohomish/King: Nice fall weather experienced, but with fog and a few showers. Several frosty mornings in parts of the counties. With no growth on the fields and excess moisture from last week, animals should not be on the pastures now due to the compaction and destruction of the sod and roots. U-Cut Christmas tree growers were getting ready for opening. Pumpkins were rotting in the fields.

Thurston: The distant buzz of power saws could be heard across the rural landscape as Christmas tree growers raced to fill wholesale orders. Some growers had to resort to helicopter harvest in order to gain back time lost from the previous three weeks of almost daily rainfall. The majority of wholesale orders will be completed by Thanksgiving Day. In the meantime, Choose and Cut growers were busy putting up signs and preparing to open their farms the day after Thanksgiving. Due to the wet spring and fall, growers were boasting that tree quality this year is the best seen in years. An entire week with no rainfall brought smiles to turfgrass growers who appreciated drier field conditions for harvest. Holly growers continued harvesting and shipping both wholesale and retail orders. Livestock producers continued feeding haylage as pasture growth was finally beginning to slow due to the cold weather.

Whatcom: No unusual conditions to report. Most lower ground remains fully saturated to the level of standing water. Raspberry growers continued to trim and tie canes. Tractors did not move.

Central

Benton: Spotty rain continued throughout the county. Some were still trying to get the wheat planted this past week.

Chelan/Douglas: Livestock producers were beginning to bring their cattle home for the winter. Portions of the county were snow covered. For the most part, apple harvest was completed. The apple crop was actually slightly bigger than expected.

Grant: Killing frost allowed grazing on alfalfa fields.

Kittitas: Fall continued wonderfully wet. Additional mountain snow and valley moisture were encouraging. However, last year looked good for a while too. Most field work has stopped, and most calves have been sold. Cool-season pasture grasses were still green, and most cows were still on pasture. Hay growers who had water to bring up a new seeding have very nice looking fields going into winter and should be in good shape for next year's crop.

Okanogan/Ferry: Livestock producers were beginning to bring cattle in for the winter. Portions of the county were under snow. Apple harvest was complete.

Yakima: Average temperatures varied from 4 degrees below normal to 2 degrees above normal, with a trace of precipitation. No crop damage due to weather conditions was reported.

Eastern

Adams: Frosty nights early in the week, and unrelenting fog late in the week highlighted the weather forecast. Some growers were able to work in spray applications for cheatgrass on winter wheat, and a little grain corn was harvested in the panhandle.

Lincoln: Pasture grazing by livestock in much of the county ended with the beginning of supplemental feeding. Mild temperatures for this time of the year was beneficial to newly planted fall crops, although precipitation is still needed for the subsoil profile.

Pend Oreille: Temperatures ranged from a high of 37 degrees and a low of 15 degrees. Precipitation consisted of one day of snow. Livestock on rangeland were eating dried grasses as freezing weather had killed all tall grass. Hay was being supplemented as well as grains. Sheep wool was thick 1-2" deep. Livestock were gaining winter fat and eating all day in preparation for a long cold winter. No farming or ground work was being done due to frozen ground approximately 1" deep. Fowl were eating dry grasses as well as grains, egg production dropped off considerably.

Pend Oreille/Spokane: It was a week of fog, with some sun breaks but not very many. Freezing temperatures during the night and warming up into the low 40's during the day. No moisture other than the fog.

Stevens: A few producers finished plowing last week. Several loads of bluegrass straw were trucked to various winter cattle feeding locations. The last of the cows were being moved off of fall pastures. For the most part all was quiet.

Walla Walla: It was cool and foggy throughout the week. A couple of evenings temperatures dropped below freezing, but mostly staying between the mid-30's and 40's. Crops looked OK.

Whitman: Precipitation took a mid-month break only to be replaced with an inversion type pattern with foggy conditions. Most field work was completed and recent rains improved winter wheat and pasture condition.

Weekly Weather Statistics

November 21, 2005

Station	Air Temperature				Growing Degree Days				Last Week Precipitation			Season Precipitation			
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	Base 50F		Base 60F		Total			Total		% Normal	Days
					TOT	DFN	TOT	DFN	Inches	DFN	Days	Inches	DFN		
WEST															
Bellingham	30	53	41	-3	0	-4	0	0	0.06	-1.13	2	8.74	0.13	102	42
Everett	35	49	43	-1	0	-7	0	0	0.14	-1.05	1	6.68	-1.71	80	37
Hoquiam	32	57	46	-2	0	-7	0	0	0.02	-2.46	1	16.87	0.83	105	45
Kelso	30	55	44	-1	0	-7	0	0	0.05	-1.55	1	9.94	-0.45	96	34
Olympia	27	51	42	1	0	-7	0	0	0.01	-1.97	1	12.81	1.05	109	43
Sea-Tac	32	51	44	-2	0	-7	0	0	0.01	-1.41	1	6.02	-2.83	68	34
Shelton	26	54	43	-2	0	-7	0	0	0.00	-2.51	0	15.73	1.00	107	40
Tacoma	28	50	42	-2	0	-7	0	0	0.04	-1.42	1	8.34	-0.72	92	34
Vancouver	28	58	44	0	1	-6	0	0	0.00	-1.44	0	8.60	-0.29	97	34
CENTRAL															
Ellensburg	24	51	37	3	0	-4	0	0	0.00	-0.28	0	2.52	0.74	142	16
Stampede Pass	24	55	35	7	0	0	0	0	0.48	-2.49	1	20.40	2.72	115	41
Wenatchee	26	47	36	-1	0	-3	0	0	0.00	-0.28	0	1.85	0.29	119	13
Yakima AP	22	51	36	-3	0	-5	0	0	0.00	-0.26	0	1.93	0.43	129	15
NORTHEAST															
Colville	19	43	33	-2	0	0	0	0	0.00	-0.66	0	3.21	-0.84	79	20
Deer Park	14	45	31	-4	0	0	0	0	0.00	-0.63	0	4.41	0.83	123	27
Spokane AP	21	40	32	-3	0	0	0	0	0.01	-0.52	1	3.32	0.25	108	24
EAST CENTRAL															
Ephrata	24	45	35	-2	0	0	0	0	0.00	-0.26	0	2.68	1.25	187	15
Moses Lake	23	46	35	-3	0	0	0	0	0.02	-0.24	2	2.25	0.82	157	16
Quincy	25	46	36	-2	0	-7	0	0	0.03	-0.25	1	2.47	0.85	152	16
Ritzville	22	48	34	-3	0	-7	0	0	0.15	-0.25	3	2.91	0.55	123	23
SOUTHEAST															
Hanford	23	50	37	-5	0	-7	0	0	0.00	-0.24	0	0.58	-0.77	43	8
Pasco	23	52	38	-5	0	-7	0	0	0.00	-0.28	0	1.88	0.32	121	16
Pullman	25	49	37	1	0	-2	0	0	0.00	-0.63	0	1.52	-2.58	37	20
Whitman Miss.	21	61	36	-6	1	-6	0	0	0.00	-0.42	0	2.27	-0.59	79	26
ID PANHANDLE															
Coeur D'A' AP	21	45	35	-4	0	0	0	0	0.02	-0.80	1	1.84	-3.06	38	18
Lewiston ID	25	54	39	-2	0	-1	0	0	0.01	-0.27	1	2.16	-0.27	89	16

Summary based on NWS data.

Season Cumulative Precip Starts: Wednesday September 1, 2004

DFN = Departure From Normal (Using 1961-90 Normals Period).

NA = Data Unavailable

Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) in inches.

Precipitation Days = Days with precip of 0.01 inch or more.

Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit.

Copyright 2005: AWIS, Inc. All Rights Reserved.

National weather website: <http://www.usda.gov/nass/pubs/pubs.htm>

Washington Agricultural Statistics Service website: <http://www.nass.usda.gov/wa>

E-mail: nass-wa@nass.usda.gov

Free e-mail subscriptions are available via automated mailing list for National and State reports. You can subscribe to individual reports and they will be sent directly to your e-mail address soon after the official release time.

Subscribe at: <http://www.nass.usda.gov/sub-form.htm>